

Title: Debate Dave's Dilemma

Subject: Language Arts

Grade Level: 4th-6th

Time: 1 – 1 ½ hours

Objective:

Students will better understand the art of persuasion and opposing viewpoints.

Method:

Present Dave's Dilemma to your class as a large group. As a class, determine the central issue and the two (or more) points of view posed by Dave's Dilemma. Come up with possible outcomes for each issue and factors that will lead to the outcomes.

Arbitrarily, divide the class in two groups. Explain the importance of a debate and how one must include opposing points of view. Establish that students must respect and understand the opposing point of view.

Have the groups of students elect one or more speakers for each group. Also, elect note-takers and fact finders.

Debate Dave's Dilemma and have each group submit their reasoning and list of factors to the Wilderness Classroom.

Common Core State Anchor Standards:

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Lesson Extensions:

Review other schools' submissions to determine accuracy and validity. Did other schools come up with different ideas or points of view? What might be the reason for this?